southeastern Negros by a cluster of volcanic peaks. Two of the island's best known volcanoes are Canlaon (8,088 feet), north-central Negros, and Cuernos de Negros ("Horns of Negros") in the southeast. Canlaon is still an active volcano while Cuernos de Negros is dormant.[2] On a clear day the blue outline of Zamboanga peninsula, Mindanao, normally wreathed with clouds, is visible from Siaton.

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Political Divisions of Negros

Negros is divided into two provinces, Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental, the latter including the subprovince of Siquijor Island which lies off the southeast tip of Negros. In 1948 1,482,219 people lived in Negros' two provinces: this was 8 per cent of the total population of the Philippines.[3] In the same year there were 50 provinces, 983 municipalities, 21 chartered

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[2] Steere, traveling in Negros in 1898, states Canlaon Volcano was once known as Malaspina. He visited Cuernos de Negros and wrote that while he and his party heard of no recent accounts of eruptions, "...we were struck with the appearance of immense ancient lava streams reaching from the summit of the mountain to the sea. Some of them looked like gigantic railway embankments, so even was their grade and so level their surface. They were too recent to have weathered into good soils and were covered for the most part with low trees and coarse grass." J. B. Steere, "Volcanoes and Earthquakes in the Philippines," Scientific American, N.S., LXIVIII, (June 18, 1898), p.395.

[3] 1948 Philippine Census (Population), p.9.

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cities and 18,859 barrios in the Republic of the Philippines.[4] Some basic statistics on Negros are given in Table I. (See Plate III.)[1]

TABLE I

Province	Square Miles	Population (1948)	Number of Municipalities (1952)	Number[5] of Barrios (1952)
Negros Occidental	2977	1,038,758	30	314
Negros Oriental	2020	386,203	21	330
Siquijor Island Sub-province	129	57,258	6	133
	5126	1,482,219	57	777

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The most important function of provincial governments is supervision of the various municipal governments within a province.[6] The provincial governor and board are elected by the people of the province as are mayors and many of the municipal officials. The municipal

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[4] Ibid., p.8. Since the 1948 census Mindoro Island has been divided into two provinces, Mindoro Oriental and Mindoro Occidental.

[5] Ibid., pp.169-78. Since the 1948 census four new municipalities have been established in Negros: Asia, Sipalay, Magallon and Pamplona. The new barrios which were also created in these municipalities have been added to the above chart.

[6] Joseph R. Hayden, The Philippines: A Study in National Development. New York, Macmillan Company, 1945, p.286.

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treasurer, postmaster, agricultural and sanitary inspectors are appointive positions. The provinces are roughly similar to American states while the municipalities correspond in many aspects to American counties. The mayors of the chartered cities, Dumaguete and Bacolod, are appointed by the President of the Philippines. One municipal district, Bago, is located in Negros Oriental; all the officials of this district are appointed by the provincial governor.

The Visayans

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This section is a brief introduction to the people of the Visayas with emphasis on the present inhabitants of Negros. The pre-Hispanic names for Negros were Buglas (Binglas), Nayon, and Mamaylan, the latter two probably derived from settlements in the vicinity of Himamaylan.[7] The Negritos or people of a mixed Indonesian-Papuan-Negrito stock were the first inhabitants of the Philippines. When the Spaniards first visited Buglas, they reported Negritos living on the island. "In one of the large islands there were so many of them [Negritos] that it is for that reason called the island of Negros."[8] Whether

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[7] Miguel de Loarca, "Relación de las Yslas Filipinas" (Relations of the Filipinas Islands), Iloilo City, Philippines, June, 1582. Emma H. Blair and James A. Robertson, The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898. Cleveland, Ohio, Arthur H. Clark, 1903-1909, V, p. 47.

[8] Francisco Colin, S.J., "Native Races and Their Customs" (Labor Evangelica). Madrid, 1663. Translation in Blair and Robertson, op. cit., XL, p. 45.

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Until 1734 Negros was divided between Panay and Cebu for administrative purposes. In this year, Negros was unified as a military province. During this period of Spanish rule, there were two types of provinces, civil and military. Civil provinces were pacified areas called alcaldias while corregimientos were regions not completely pacified and governed by army officers.[31] Negros did not become a civil province until 1901.

Nascent Siaton

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The date of the first settlement of Siaton is probably lost forever in the unchronicled past. This small riverine valley on the coast of southern Negros would have been attractive to settlers. Here were two sizeable rivers, the sea with its abundant resources, and level land for cultivation. Bonbonon Bay was an excellent harbor for small boats and the region was near Cebu and Bohol, which in the 16th century were sending out emigrants in search of new farm land. In 1620 Siaton is reported to have been under the jurisdiction of the Dumaguete parish.[32] This would indicate that during the first part of the 17th century Siaton was known, and that there probably was a settlement in the area and a sufficient number of people to interest the Church. On the other hand, southern Negros was located

[31] Arturo M. Tolentino and Gregorio F. Zaide, The Government of the Philippines: Origin, Development, Organization and Function. Manila, R. P. Garcia Publishing Company, 1948, p. 55.

[32] Ruiz, op. cit., p. 151.

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grammar translated into Visayan and also a big Spanish-Visayan dictionary. If you asked your teacher questions while the class was in session he might pull your ears or scold you. If you failed to answer questions on the lesson given you in the morning that afternoon you were given five lashes.[108]

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The school was mainly for the sons of the better-to-do Filipino who lived in the poblacion. Children from the nearby barrios rarely attended this school.

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In 1856 Negros was raised to the status of a military-political province; in 1890 it was divided into the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental. In 1887 Negros' population was estimated to be 270,891, an increase of more than 65,000 in ten years.[109] Gadiane mentions this administrative division of Negros and reports that a "military government was organized at Dumaguete under Governor Joaquin Tavira."[110] Negros' new provinces were still classified as corregimientos (military provinces) and governed by army officers.

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[108] The stress on teaching Spanish in Siaton is interesting since this was not typical of most of the schools during the Spanish period. In 1885 a Franciscan friar wrote a pamphlet which ridiculed the Filipinos' efforts to learn Spanish and stated: "All a Filipino needed to enable him to go to heaven was to learn how to pray, to plow, and to be obedient to his superiors, especially to the parish priests." Encarnacion Alzona, A History of Education in the Philippines: 1565-1930. Manila, University of the Philippines Press, 1932, pp. 96-7.

[109] Galang and Osias, op. cit., pp. 405-6. In 1893 Echauz states Negros had a population of 320,606 with 42 towns and that the number of Recollect priests in the island had increased to 47. Echauz, op. cit., p. 37.

[110] This statement is from Gadiane's manuscript and is supported by Pedro Teves, "Una Breve Historia de Dumaguete," The Official Program of Dumaguete City. Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, November 24, 1948, p. 46.